

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201936

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MARR, MASS, TU

SUBJECT:NIMETZ-ELEKDAG MEETING, AUGUST 8: CONGRESSIONAL
SITUATION

REF: STATE 199601

1. TURKISH MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR
ESENBEL, CALLED ON DEPT COUNSELOR NIMETZ AUGUST 8 TO BEGIN
FULL DAY OF DISCUSSIONS. AT INITIAL MEETING SUBJECTS COVER-
ED INCLUDED STATUS OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION LIFTING ARMS EM-
BARGO AND OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES (SEPTELS). ALSO PRESENT ON
TURKISH SIDE WERE: MFA OFFICIALS YALIM ERALP AND METIN
KUSTAOGLU AND EMBOFF ERGUN PELIT. AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN-
CLUDED EUR ASST SEC VEST, EB DEPUTY ASST SEC MEISSNER AND
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DEPT OFFS FROM EUR/SE.

2. FOLLOWING UP ON AUGUST 7 CONVERSATION (REFTEL), NIMETZ
SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED IN A GENERAL WAY THE TURKISH SUG-
GESTIONS REGARDING FINAL VERSION OF BILL WITH TWO HOUSE
CONFEREES (HAMILTON/SOLARZ). THEY GENERALLY SHARED OUR VIEW
THAT LANGUAGE IN SENATE VERSION (WHICH MEETS MOST OF TURKISH

CONCERNS) WAS PREFERABLE. HOWEVER, NIMETZ ADDED, THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT WILL BE TO OBTAIN REPEAL OF SECTION 620(X). WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS IN SEEKING TOO MANY CHANGES WHICH MIGHT RISK ANOTHER DIFFICULT FLOOR ROLE. NIMETZ STRESSED THAT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE DRAFTING PROCESS WAS LARGELY OUT OF OUR HANDS.

3. ELEKDAG REITERATED MOST OF POINTS MADE AUGUST 7(REFTEL) BUT COMMENTED THAT IT WAS NOT RPT NOT NECESSARY FOR CONFERENCE TO PRODUCE PRO-TURKISH BILL. AN "OBJECTIVE" TEXT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. HE THOUGHT THE EMBARGO HAD BECOME AN END IN ITSELF FOR THE GREEKS AND GREEK CYPRIOTS. WHATEVER EMERGES FROM THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE HE SAID, SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AN OBSTACLE TO RESUMING INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. THE MOST IMPORTANT TURKISH PRIORITY WAS A SIMPLE REPEAL OF SECTION 620(X). IN CLOSING THIS PART OF MEETING, NIMETZ OBSERVED THAT FINAL VERSION OF THE BILL SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AN OBSTACLE. VANCE

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